

WISCONSIN TANF FACT SHEET
General Facts, Caseload Statistics, and Efforts towards Four Purposes

General Facts:

- \$317 million per year in block grant funds (State must maintain \$169 million “maintenance-of-effort”).
- Funding supports over 35 state programs spread across more than four state agencies and hundreds of local agencies.
- State programs support hundreds of local schools, literacy organizations, non-profits (See “What Does TANF Fund in Wisconsin”).
- Hundreds of thousands served per year in all TANF programs.

Caseload Statistics:

MONTHS	W-2 CASH	W-2 CASE MANAGEMENT	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE FAMILIES
STATEWIDE				
Jan-02	9,137	3,137	104,297	25,482
Jan-01	6,679	4,374	83,678	22,476
Jan-00	6,700	4,022	75,297	17,990
MILWAUKEE				
Jan-02	7,223	2,010	49,897	10,585
Jan-01	5,077	3,262	40,781	9,387
Jan-00	5,427	3,180	36,876	8,149

How Does Wisconsin Support the Four Purposes? (See descriptions at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/tanf/>.)

PURPOSE ONE: PROVIDE ASSISTANCE

- Kinship Care benefits-child only payments to non-legally responsible relatives.
- Caretaker Supplement benefits-child only payments to disabled children.
- Provision of W-2 benefits.
- Support of the state Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Emergency Assistance payments

PURPOSE TWO: END DEPENDENCE

- Provision of W-2 services intended to encourage and support a parent moving into employment.
- Child Care Services
- Transportation Services
- Workforce Attachment and Advancement-program aimed at skill advancement and job retention
- Other employment, training and education programs

PURPOSE THREE: PREVENT AND REDUCE OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS

- Support of “Brighter Futures”-adolescent pregnancy prevention services.
- Community Youth Grants-grants to local agencies that assist at risk teens.
- Community Reinvestment-W-2 agency funds that support community prevention initiatives.

PURPOSE FOUR: FAMILY FORMATION

- Noncustodial parent programs-over \$20 million targeted to this population
- Children First-mandatory referral job placement and retention program offered through child support.
- Workforce Attachment and Advancement
- Services to domestic violence victims.
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services.
- Child welfare safety and prevention services.

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Successes and Challenges

Wisconsin's Success Under TANF:

Providing Assistance:

- More than 20,000 families receive TANF assistance every month, 9,000 W-2 cases.

Ending Dependence:

- Cash assistance caseloads down 75% since W-2 began.
- W-2 leavers working an average 35 hours per week at \$7.95 per hour.
- State audit showed almost half who left W-2 earned their way out of poverty.
- Wisconsin received a High Performance Bonus Award in 2000 for "job entry" and "success in the workplace"

Reducing Out-of-Wedlock Births

- Down 8 percentage points since 1992

Encouraging Family Formation and Maintenance

- Over 5,000 noncustodial parents served in SFY01

Remaining TANF Challenges:

- Job Retention and Advancement - Need resources for child care, transportation. People have gone to work, now we have to keep them there and help them advance. Work supports like child care are very expensive. But, if we don't "complete the job", we've just traded one form of welfare for another.
- The "Hard to Serve" - Helping those with multiple barriers. An analysis of the Wisconsin caseload (See <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/w2/w2whitepapers.htm>) shows that more than 90% of those needing an extension to the time limit have more than one barrier to employment. 68% are pending an SSI/SSDI decision.
- The Recession - Need resources for cash assistance, retraining. Caseloads are going up, now more than ever we need TANF resources. The days of budget surpluses of all types are over.
- Purposes Three and Four need more attention. Programs and services for noncustodial parents especially need to be a priority in the future.
- Complete full integration of TANF and other resources:
 - Food Stamps-need to make FS more attractive for working families by offering more than \$25 in benefits each month.
 - Labor Programs-need to more fully integrate workforce and economic support programs--we cannot afford any duplication in services.
 - SSI-more than 60% of the families who have reached the W-2 time limit are pending an SSI decision, more than 80% who need a second W-2 extension. We need a better continuum between TANF and SSI.